

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAGU 02181 01 OF 02 111731Z

45

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CU-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AS-01

/090 W

----- 064827

R 111450Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9980

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PAANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANAGUA 2181

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NU,

SUBJECT: LABOR UNITY CONVERSATIONS

REF: 75 MANAGUA 4492 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE AIFLD-SUPPORTED CONFEDERATION (CGT-O), WHICH BEGAN IN FEBRUARY 1978 AFTER THE SUSPENSION OF THE TALKS BETWEEN CUS, THE COMMUNIST CGT-1 AND THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN CTN (REFTEL) ARE NOW APPARENTLY STALLED. LOSS OF MOMENTUM IN THE CONVERSATIONS MAY BE JUST AS WELL IN VIEW OF THE POTENTIAL FOR EMBARRASSMENT OF U.S. INTERESTS IF AN AGREEMENT WERE REACHED.
END SUMMARY

1. CUS'S UNITY TALKS WITH THE COMMUNIST AND SOCIAL CHRISTIAN LABOR CONFEDERATIONS, WHICH GREW OUTMF COMMON ANTIPATHY TOWARD THE LABOR MINISTRY, FAILED AS THEY WERE PROBABLY BOUND TO FAIL, BECAUSE OF IRREDUCIBLE IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES AND BECAUSE OF THE SUSPICION OF SOME OF THE FREE TRADE UNIONISTS THAT THE MOVEMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANAGU 02181 01 OF 02 111731Z

TOWARD LABOR UNITY WAS BENEFITING THE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIAL

CHRISTIANS MORE THAN IT BENEFITED THEM. IN ANY CASE, THE TALKS WERE STALLED AND THEN SUSPENDED TOWARD THE END OF 1975.

2. FOLLOWING THE FAILURE OF CUS' "OPENING TO THE LEFT" SOME LEADERS OF THE CGT-O, THE SOMOCISTA LABOR FRONT, APPROACHED THE CUS LEADERSHIP IN FEBRUARY AND SUGGESTED THAT THEY BEGIN CONVERSATIONS TOWARD AN EVNTUAL UNIFICATION OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS. CUS AGREED TO BEGIN THE TALKS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS AND THOSE OF THE FAIRLY INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERATION OF NICARAGUAN TEACHERS (CDMN) MET TO DRAFT A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

3. THIS UNIFICATION EFFORT, LIKE THE PREVIOUS ONE INVOLVING CUS, THE CGT-I, AND THE CTN, WAS A REACTION TO THE GON'S HOSTILE LABOR POLICY. TO CUS THE NEED FOR AN ALLIANCE WITH OTHER GROUPS WAS BROUGHT HOME BY A SERIES OF DEFEATS IT SUFFERED WHEN ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE WORKERS AT COMPANIES OWNED BY THE SOMOZAS OR THEIR FRIENDS. FOR THE CGT-O, ITS INITIATIVE GREW OUT OF A POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN GENERAL JOSE R. SOMOZA, THE PRESIDENT'S HALF BROTHER AND A TRADITIONAL OVERSEER OF THE CGT-O AND LABOR MINISTER JULIO CARDOZE. THE PRO-JOSE R. LEADERS WISHED TO IMPROVE THEIR POSITION BY UNITING WITH CUS.

4. REPRESENTATIVES OF CUS, THE CGT-O, AND THE CDMN MET SEVERAL TIMES IN THE SECOND HALF OF FEBRUARY, IN MARCH AND AT THE BEGINNING OF APRIL. BY THE MIDDLE OF APRIL THEY HAD REACHED AGREEMENT ON A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. THE NEXT STEP WAS TO BE TO SUBMIT THE DECLARATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS. THEN A CONGRSS WAS TO BE CALLED TO ELECT THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE NEW ORGANIZATION, WHICH WAS TO BRING TOGETHER THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS. THE CONVERSATIONS, HOWEVER, HAVE STALLED. THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE CONFEDERATINS HAVE NOT MET SINCE THE MIDDLE OF APRIL. POLOFFS HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT NO MORE SUCH MEETINGS ARE PLANNED.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT THE CGT-O UNITY INITIATIVE IS BEING FOSTERED AND CONTROLLED BY JOSE R.SOMOZA TO ISOLATE CARDOZE, WHO HAS BEEN POACHING ON JOSE R.'S LABOR PRESERVE, IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY THAT THE CGT-O'S INTEREST IN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANAGU 02181 01 OF 02 111731Z

UNIFICATION IS LESS OF AN OFFENSIVE MOVE AGAINST CARDOZE THAN A DEFENSIVE ONE. THE INABILITY OF JOSE R. TO DEVOTE HIS COMPLETE AND CONTINUOUS ATTENTION TO HIS PRESERVE HAS ALLOWED CARDOZE TO TRIM BACK PATRONAGE AND STATE SUBSIDIES TO THE CGT-O (INDEED, IT HAS LEFT IT WITHOUT ONE OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS, TO DISTRIBUTE PATRONAGE TO LOWER-CLASS SOMOCISTAS). AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE OFICIALISTAS ARE SEEKING AN ALTERNATE SOURCE OF FUNDS AS WELL AS ORGANIZATINAL SUPPORT IN AIFLD. FOR EXAMPLE,

THE PRESIDENT OF THE MANAGUA HEALTH WORKERS FEDERATION (FETRASALUD-MA), AN ANTI-CARDOZE CGT-O ALLY, TOLD THE POLITICAL/LABOR OFFICER THAT HER FEDERATION COULD SURVIVE WITHOUT LABOR MINISTRY SUPPORT AS LONG AS IT COULD HAVE SUCH SUPPORT ELSEWHERE, REFERRING TO AIFLD.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAGU 02181 02 OF 02 111901Z

45

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 AID-05 CU-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

/090 W

----- 066182

R 111450Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9981

INFO FUESGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 1416

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEPQBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANAGUA 2181

6. AN UNKNOWN FACTOR IS THE ATTITUDE OF PRESIDENT ANASTASIO SOMOZA. UNLIKE HIS FATHER AND BROTHER, BOTH PREDECESSORS AS PRESIDENT, SOMOZA HAS PLACED DIMINISHING IMPORTANCE ON OBTAINING WORKING-CLASS SUPPORT FOR HIS REGIME AND SEEMS RATHER UNINTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENTS IN ORGANIZED LABOR EXCEPT AS THEY AFFECT SHORT-RUN POLITICS OR HIS PERSONAL BUSINESSES. WHILE HE HAS DONE LITTLE TO ASTRAIN HIS AMBITIOUS LABOR MINISTER, CARDOZE'S RATHER NEO-FACIST PHILOSOPHY WOULD NOT SEEM TO BE ESPECIALLY CONGENIA TO SOMOZA'S MORE RELAXED AUTHORITARIANISM, NOR WOULD SOMOZA BE EXPECTED TO FAVOR CARDOZE IN AN OPEN CONFRONTATION WITH HIS HALF-BROTHER JOSE R. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOMOZA WOULD BE SO OBLIVIOUS TO THE SITUATION THAT HE WOULD ALLOW THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS TO

LIMP ALONG THE STRONG RUMORS RECENTLY PREDICTING CARDOZE'S

IMMINENT REMOVAL FROM HIS PORTFOLIO SUGGEST THAT A MORE SATIS-
FACTORY SOLUTION MAY BE IN THE OFFING.

7. CUS LEADERS HAVE PROFESSED TO BELIEVE THAT THE CGT-O UNITY
INITIATIVE REPRESENTS AN EFFORT BY THE OFICIALISTA LEADERS TO CUT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANAGU 02181 02 OF 02 111901Z

FREE OF GON CONTROL AND TURN THE CGT-O INTO A LEGITIMATE,
INDEPENDENT LABOR ORGANIZATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, SINCE IT IS
WIDELY ACCEPTED THAT THE CGT-O IS NOT A TRUE LABOR ORGANIZATION
BUT A SOMOCISTA POLITICAL INSTRUMENT, THE CA PROFESSIONS MAY
REPRESENT A TRIUMPH OF OPTIMISM OVER EXPERIENCE. AT ANY RATE, IF
CUS UNITES WITH THE CGT-O, IT WILL BE WIDELY PERCEIVED AS SELLING
OUT TO SOMOZA. ANY ADVANTAGES THAT CUS EXPECTED TO DERIVE FROM
THE PROPOSED UNIFICATION WOULD HARDLY BE WORTH THE DAMAGE TO ITS
PRESTIGE AND IMAGE. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF U.S. INTERESTS, UNITY
BETWEEN CUS AND THE CGT-O WILL HAVE MOSTLY NEGATIVE REPER-
CUSSIONS; IT WOULD PROBABLY COMPROMISE AIFLD'S REPUTATION IN
NICARAGUA AND THROUGHOUT CENTRAL AMERICA, AND MIGHT EVEN INVITE
CRITICISM OF THE AIFLD PROGRAM IN THE U.S.
THEBERGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, COMMUNISTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANAGU02181
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760181-0950
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760568/aaaacgjit.tel
Line Count: 194
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANAGUA 4492
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR UNITY CONVERSATIONS
TAGS: PINT, NU, CUS, CGT-0
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006